ing wall and which slot forms an isothermal region therein.

26. A heater according to claim **27** wherein said side walls have a dimension in the direction of the fiber axis which is substantially greater than the distance between said walls.

27. A heater according to claim **28** wherein said side walls have a dimension in the direction of the axis of the fiber which is at least two times greater than the dimensions between said side walls.

28. A heater according to claim **26** wherein the dimension between said side walls at said open end is less than the dimension between said side walls adjacent said connecting end wall.

29. A heater according to claim **25** wherein a first additional wall is spaced outwardly from one of said side walls and a second additional wall is spaced outwardly from the other of said side walls to provide radiant shielding and buffering of the isothermal high temperature region.

30. A heater according to claim **29** wherein additional connecting wall sections spaced oppositely to said first mentioned connecting wall respectively connect said additional walls to said side walls from which they are spaced outwardly.

31. A method of drawing a fiber for local elongation thereof, comprising the steps of:

(a) initially placing the fiber under tension;
(b) introducing the fiber into a high temperature isothermal heating region and heating the fiber to a temperature at least near its melting point temperature;
(c) placing the fiber under tension while in the region and stretching it; and
(d) cooling the region to preclude further elongation of the fiber.

32. A method according to claim **31** further comprising the step of pre-heating the fiber to a temperature less than its melting point temperature prior to said step of initially placing the fiber under tension.

33. A method according to claim **31** further including the step of radiant heat shielding and buffering the high temperature isothermal heating region from heat loss.

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